

pattern of disease. They have, therefore, described briefly and in alphabetical order symptoms and signs of the commoner diseases, and indicated something of their physico-pathological manifestations. There could be much discussion by those in different disciplines of medicine about what is omitted or included, and the descriptions may not always be acceptable. Nevertheless, for the interested ancillary worker this little work should provide much information which will inform and stimulate. Its place is in the ward for easy access and not in the library.

J.E.M.

THE CERVICAL SPINE IN TRAUMA. By A. J. Gerlock, S. G. Kirchner, R. M. Heller and J. J. Kaye. (£6.25). Philadelphia, London, Toronto: Saunders and Eastbourne: Holt-Saunders. 1978.

THIS monograph, the eleventh in the Advanced Exercises in Diagnostic Radiology, has been compiled by a team of radiologists from the Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, to help casualty doctors interpret the x-ray films of the cervical spine of an acutely injured patient.

The anatomy of the cervical spine is described in detail and is illustrated well by means of radiographic reproductions and line drawings. These chapters are followed by a series of 30 test cases, in each of which the reader is invited to inspect a reproduction of a radiograph of the cervical spine, answer questions relating to the abnormality thereon and make a diagnosis. A line drawing of each abnormality and answers on it are available on the following pages. A good range of post-traumatic derangements of the cervical spine is covered and most readers will enjoy the challenge of the test cases, in some of which the questions are arranged as a multiple choice.

This addition to the Advanced Exercises in Diagnostic Radiology should be of value to students and junior doctors dealing with injured patients, and to trainee radiologists.

R.S.C.

HEART DISEASE IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. By John D. Keith, Richard D. Rowe and Peter Vlad. Third Edition. (Pp 1083; figs. 478. £36.00). London: Bailliere Tindall. 1978.

IT is twenty years since the first edition of this book appeared and became the standard text on the subject. In few fields have the past twenty years seen more rapid advances than in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in childhood and especially in infancy. Recognising this the authors have virtually re-written the book, a huge task made possible largely by the remarkably efficient method of data gathering, storage and analysis employed at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. The result is a book which distils the wisdom and experience of workers whose personal knowledge of their subject is without equal.

All aspects of the subject are covered. The most up to date methods are succinctly described and their value assessed against a background of their historical development. This is nowhere better illustrated than in the chapter on cardiac catheterization where Professor Rowe considers the question of whether non-invasive techniques may eventually supplant the invasive techniques in the diagnosis of heart disease. The value of such new techniques as echocardiography, nuclear techniques and exercise testing is stressed and many helpful illustrative echocardiographic tracings are published alongside the high quality selective angiographic pictures.

As in any text book some chapters are outstanding. That on ventricular septal defect remains the definitive text, based as it is on Professor Keith's personal observations in many thousands of cases followed over many years. The chapter on transposition of the great arteries by Professor Langford Kidd is also outstanding. Among the great strength of this book is the way it deals with urgent practical subjects such as the management of

distressed newborn and cerebral complications in congenital heart disease. It is typical of the forward attitudes of the authors that a section on atherosclerosis in childhood should be included.

This is a large book but the division of the material into four major units, each composed of relatively short well illustrated chapters, makes it a pleasure to read as a text book and simple to consult as a work of reference. Each chapter has a large and remarkably up to date bibliography. All in all the principle authors and their co-contributors have ensured that this book will continue for years to come to be regarded as the 'bible' of paediatric cardiology.

M.E.S.